

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 March 1967

3 March 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
2 - 3 MARCH 1967

1. North Vietnam

[redacted] Moscow
sees the new US military tactics against
North Vietnam as an "added measure of
the same," rather than as an "escalatory
step." However, [redacted]
[redacted] the mining of Haiphong would be re-
garded as escalation. Soviet policy [redacted]
[redacted] will be deter-
mined by the war's political and economic
cost to Moscow--and not solely by US ac-
tion against North Vietnam.

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2. Communist China

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3. Egypt -
Saudi Arabia

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4. India

To the surprise of many, Mrs. Gandhi is emerging as a very good bet for re-election as prime minister.

Despite the damage to her prestige as a result of her party's election setbacks, Mrs. Gandhi will face the party caucus on 12 March with a considerably larger base of support than her probable rival, the elderly Morarji Desai. This is because some of her strongest supporters come from states where the party did well. Conversely, some of her opponents in her own party were defeated in the election.

5. Dominican Republic

Dominican politics is like a nest of tarantulas. President Balaguer used this apt phrase in a major speech this week that was a forthright response to his political opposition. He insisted that subversion and political violence will not be tolerated and that all shades of political opinion are free to engage in open dialogue.

Some elements of the opposition found the speech constructive and conciliatory--but not the big Dominican Revolutionary Party. Balaguer ignored the party in his speech; he clearly regards its leaders as beyond the pale. Balaguer's political problems are likely to grow worse before they get better and the tarantulas will be around for a long time.

6. Argentina

The Ongania regime won an important victory over the big General Labor Confederation on 1 March. The confederation's 24-hour general strike was a flop. The failure is a serious if not final blow to labor's programmed struggle against the government.

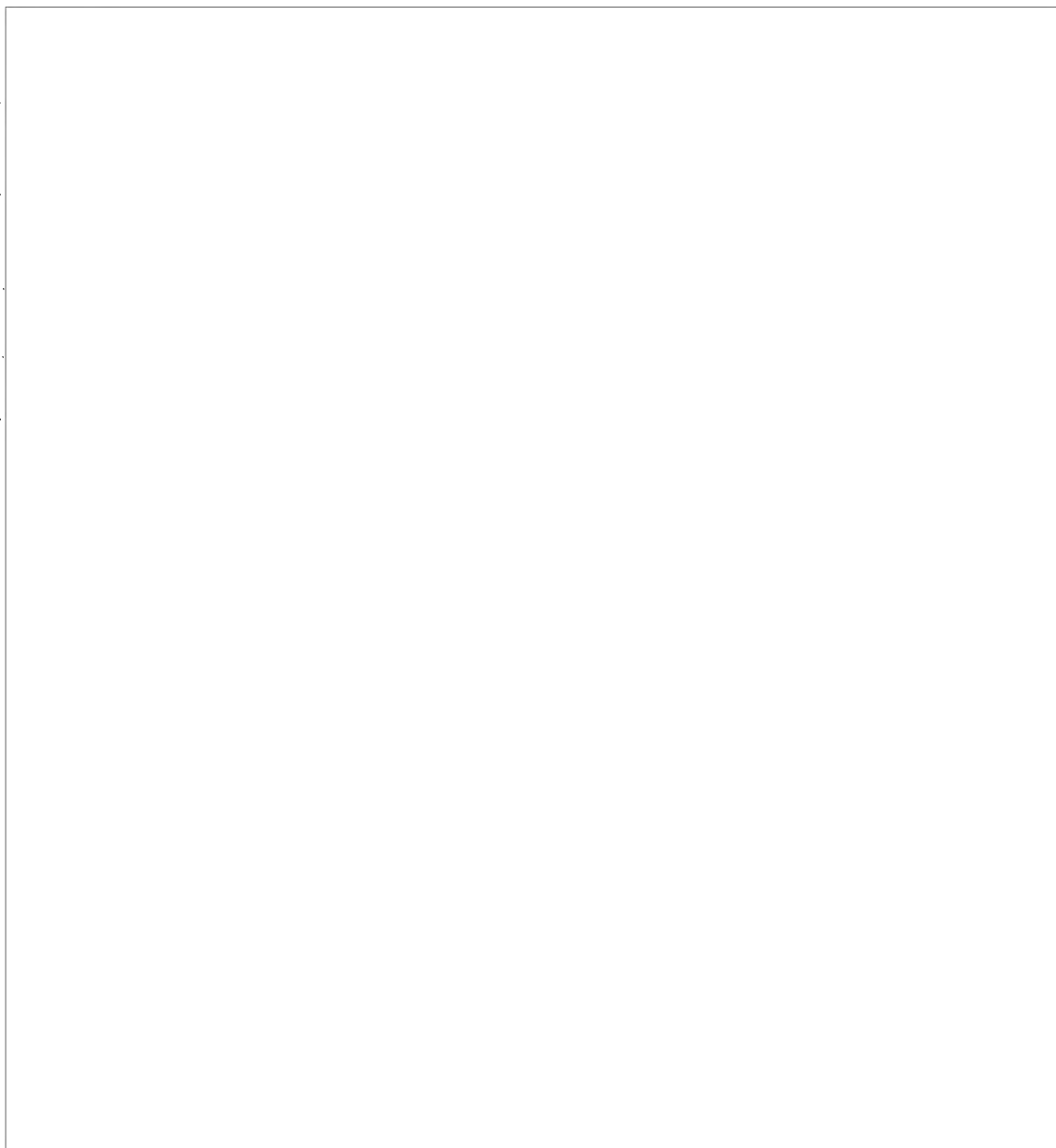
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NOTICE

Beginning Monday morning March 6 the President's Brief will be prepared during the night and will be delivered at the opening of business daily Monday through Saturday.

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